

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Thompson for his careful review of this application. Reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-61, 64-66, 68-77, 79-84, 86-142 were pending in this application.

Claims 1-3, 7-61, 64-66, 68-77, 79-84, 86-132, 135, 141 and 142 were allowed.

Claims 4-6, 133, 134 and 136-140 were rejected.

Claims 4-6, 133, 134 and 136-140 are canceled.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

On Tuesday, February 5, 2008, the Attorney for Applicants contacted the Examiner regarding certain discrepancies relating to claim statuses. According to the first page of the Final Office Action mailed October 11, 2007, the disposition of the claims are indicated as being:

Pending: 1-61, 64-66, 68-77, 79-84, 86-134 and 136-140

Allowed: 1-3, 7-61, 64-66, 68-77, 79-84 and 86-132

Rejected: 4-6, 133, 134 and 136-140

However, in the detailed portion of the Final Office Action mailed October 11, 2007, the Allowable Subject Matter is indicated as being claims 1-3, 7 21-25, 28, 61, 64-66, 68-77, 79-84, 86-94, 99-120, 124-129, 131, 132, 135, 141 and 142.

Additionally, according to the Advisory Action mailed December 21, 2007, the disposition of the claims are indicated as being:

Allowed: 1-3, 7-61, 64-66, 68-77, 79-84 and 86-132

Objected: 4-6, 133, 134 and 136-140

The Attorney for Applicants and the Examiner have agreed that the correct claim statuses are:

Pending: 1-61, 64-66, 68-77, 79-84 and 86-142

Allowed: 1-3, 7-61, 64-66, 68-77, 79-84, 86-132, 135, 141 and 142

Rejected: 4-6, 133, 134 and 136-140

THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4-6, 133, 134 AND 136-140:

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4-6, 138, 139, and 140 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. 4,779,445 ("Rabe"). Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 133, 134, 136 and 137 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. 1,225,005 ("Saunders").

Applicants have canceled claims 4-6, 133, 134 and 136-140. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter for claims 1-3, 7-61, 64-66, 68-77, 79-84, 86-132, 135, 141 and 142.

NO WAIVER

All of Applicants' arguments and amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. Other distinctions may exist, and Applicants reserve the right to discuss these additional distinctions in a later Response or on Appeal, if appropriate. By not

responding to additional statements made by the Examiner, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's additional statements, such as, for example, any statements relating to what would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants have amended and canceled claims herein solely to remove issues from the pending claims to allow a patent to issue for the subject matter found allowable by the Examiner. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's objections and rejections of the canceled claims. Nevertheless, Applicants have removed those issues from the claims. Applicants have not acquiesced to any such rejections or objections and reserve the right to address the patentability of the relevant claim features in the future, in this or other related applications.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete Response to the Advisory Action mailed December 21, 2007 and the Final Office Action mailed October 11, 2007. In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, please contact the attorney or agent of record by telephone.

As the three-month statutory period for reply to the Final Office Action expired on January 11, 2008, the Applicants submit a one-month Petition for Extension of Time to extend the response deadline to February 11, 2008. Applicants respectfully submit that this one-month Petition for Extension of Time and the Response to Final Office Action are timely filed. Applicants have included payment (via credit card) in the amount of \$120.00 for the one-month Petition for Extension of Time fee. Applicants believe that additional fees are not due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any additional fees are due, including any additional fees for any extensions of time, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit said fees from, or to credit any overpayments to, USPTO Deposit Account Number 50-3786, Reference No. 14147.105025.

Respectfully submitted,



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